

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6397
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
MEDIA LAB ASIA
SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the fund utilization of socio-economic project Media Lab Asia has come under the Government scrutiny;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that out of 10 crore grant, 80 percent of it was utilized on non-research activities;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor;
- (e) whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard; and
- (f) if so, the outcome thereof and steps taken or being taken for proper utilisation of funds?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) and (d): No, Sir. Media Lab Asia has incurred an expenditure of Rs.16.1 crores, as of April 30, 2002. This amount has been spent mainly on research activities, such as, creating basic research oriented infrastructure in establishing research hubs/labs at IITs at Delhi, Kanpur, Madras, Mumbai and Kharagpur, conducting field trials and tests and connectivity charges. It also includes payment to MIT Media Lab, USA to support and collaborate with Media Lab Asia under the Research Collaboration Agreement between the two.

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise.